

LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Henry J. Mroz Administration Office
155 Merrimack Street
Lowell, Massachusetts 01852

Sokhary Chau
Mayor and Chairperson

Jackie Doherty
Vice-Chairperson

Eileen Delrossi
Andre P. Descoteaux
Dominik Lay
Connie A. Martin
Stacey Thompson

Facilities & Transportation
Subcommittee Meeting

Monday, March 14, 2022
City Hall – Council Chamber
5:30 p.m.

Tel: (978) 674-4324

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Subcommittee Members Present:	Chairperson Doherty, Ms. Delrossi and Mr. Lay
School Committee Members Present:	Mr. Descoteaux
School Department Personnel Present:	Dr. Hall, Chief Operating Officer Mr. Underwood, Facilities Director

Chairperson Doherty called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m. The following agenda items were discussed:

1. Discussion of Motion Response to Elaine DelRossi's 2/2/22 motion on past expenditures.
2. Discussion of Critical Needs: STEM estimated cost for trailers, Cawley Stadium trailers vote of full Committee: HVAC needs, work orders.
3. Discussion on Long Term Planning and Operating Guidance.
4. Discussion on LHS Construction Project and Cawley Stadium needs.

Dr. Hall addressed the Subcommittee regarding the agenda items and asked Mr. Underwood to speak about the report that was provided to the Subcommittee. Mr. Underwood spoke about the summarized listing of the completed and expected maintenance and repair expenditures for FY2022. He stated that the expenditures were listed by account and vendor and each account has been subtotaled by account. He stated that the expenses highlighted in blue in the report are typically initiated by the city, accrued and applied to the maintenance of effort, but this year have been paid by the school department. Mr. Underwood also provided current work orders that are classified as safety issues throughout the district. The report provided went back to January 1, 2021. He stated that the numerous heating problems in the district were not

included in the report. He stated that the recent partial collapse of staircase C in the 1922 building at Lowell High School which caused the stairwell to be shut down until the repairs can be done is also not included in the report.

Ms. Delrossi asked why the schools are paying for heating and multiple other things. She also asked about the work order process and about the air conditioning not working at the McAuliffe School.

Mr. Underwood responded that the last administration had \$1 million dollars allocated for repairs, but unfortunately we ran out of time to complete everything due to contracting reasons. He responded regarding the work order process that the senior custodian submits a work order with the city and that work order will be assigned to someone on the city side. He stated that the air conditioning issue at the McAuliffe is still a work in progress and that they're still trying to figure out the problem, but hopeful that it will be fixed soon.

Ms. Doherty stated that we've already spent according to the report \$557,000 of the \$1 million from last year. How much has been put into our critical facility needs.

Mr. Underwood stated that in the report that was provided the color coded boiler issues are considered critical needs.

Ms. Doherty asked about the RFP and the cost and stated that heating is not a wish, it's a requirement as well as air conditioning.

Mr. Underwood stated that he is still waiting for the RFP and that will come back with the Building Facility Assessment which he believes could be between \$250,000 to \$500,000.

Dr. Hall stated that the Superintendent is expressing that we do this larger, more comprehensive assessment.

Mr. Descoteaux stated that we need the assessment, but the city should pay for it and that it's unacceptable if the don't.

Mr. Underwood stated that we won't have another chance like we presently do and personally he believes that these are our schools and our kids and we have the extra money.

Ms. Doherty stated that we need to work with the city and that the assessment needs to be done. She asked about the STEM and what the plan was there.

Mr. Underwood stated that they have pricing for the trailers, but do not have the tie-ins (electrical, plumbing, etc.). He stated it will be for ten (10) classrooms which will be approximately \$3 million.

Mr. Doherty stated that before we go to the City Council we need to have everything and that we want to retain our teachers. She stated that we need to make sure they have a quality work environment.

Dr. Hall stated that the cost should be shared with the city for the studies. He stated that the city wants the HVAC study that will cost approximately \$280,000 to \$300,000. He stated that if we do the whole district it could take six (6) months.

Mr. Delrossi asked why we aren't utilizing the Collins Report that was done in 2014. She stated that things need to be more thought out.

Ms. Delrossi made a motion to go with the Collins Report and the HVAC RFP Assessment; seconded by Mr. Lay. 3 yeas APPROVED

Dr. Hall stated that it was presented at the City Council and in news reports that the high school project is \$38 - \$40 million over budget at this point.

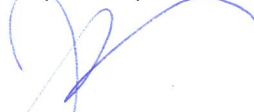
Mr. Descoteaux asked why that discrepancy existed.

Ms. Delrossi stated that we need to think for the long term.

Mr. Lay stated that the fighting will cost the kids and he hopes the city steps up and does the right thing.

Mr. Lay made a motion to adjourn at 6:23 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Delrossi. 3 yeas APPROVED

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Hall, Chief Operating Officer for Dr.
Joel Boyd, Superintendent and
Secretary, Lowell School Committee

JPH/mes